

REMARKS

Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for considering the present application. In the Office Action dated August 29, 2003, claims 1-20 are pending in the application. Applicants respectfully request the Examiner for a reconsideration.

Claims 1-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Shi* (6,383,025) in view of *Overgaard* (6,331,927) in view of *Pfaff* (U.S. Publication 2002/00068480). Applicants respectfully traverse.

Claims 1 and 14 are the only independent claims in the application. Both claims 1 and 14 are apparatus claims that each have similar limitations. Claim 1 includes a boot housing that is formed of an electrically charged dissipative material. The housing is sized to receive the connector therein. The boot housing comprises a floor portion contacting the connector contacts. A retainer is positioned on the housing for retaining a ground wire in contact with the housing. As mentioned in the application in paragraph 47, various circuits are sensitive to contamination and electrostatic discharge. The present invention allows the connector housing itself to route static discharge to a ground wire so that charge is dissipated from the connector.

The *Shi* reference teaches a connector cable assembly is shown. No teaching or suggestion is found for providing a dissipative material in the portions of the abstract. In fact, the cable connector assembly by *Shi* has a shield that is connected to the housing. The shield is a separate component and therefore applicants respectfully believe that the connector is not formed of the dissipative material. A ground conductor 34 is electrically coupled to the shield. Thus, the ground wire is not in contact with the housing but rather the shield.

The *Pfaff* reference is cited for the teaching of a cap connector. The *Pfaff* reference illustrates an electrical connector plug for ignition devices. The *Pfaff* reference also fails to teach or suggest the use of an electrically conductive housing having a ground wire in contact with the housing. Applicants respectfully submit that all the elements of the claims are not illustrated in either one of the references alone or in combination. Applicants respectfully request the Examiner for reconsideration of this rejection.

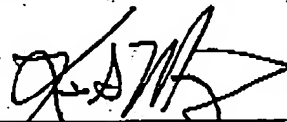
The Examiner cites the *Overgaard* reference for teaching a static dissipative material. However, this reference is directed to a large scale shield used in a manufacturing environment. This reference does not have anything to do with electrical connectors or the like. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that this reference is non-analogous art. Further, no teaching or suggestion is provided in *Overgaard* for the use of an electrically conductive housing having a ground wire in contact with the housing. Applicants therefore respectfully request the Examiner to reconsider this rejection.

Claims 2-13 and 15-20 are further limitations of their respective independent claims. Applicants therefore respectfully request the Examiner for a reconsideration of this claim as well.

Applicants respectfully believe that all rejections are overcome. Should the Examiner have any further questions or comments, the Examiner is directed to contact the undersigned directly.

Please charge any fees required in the filing of this amendment to deposit account 50,2401.

Respectfully submitted,



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